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Los Angeles County
Sheriff's Department

Press Release

LOG NUMBER

INVESTIGATING OFFICERS

179

2010

TIME OF CALL 1400 HOURS DATE July 22, 2010 DAY Thursday
CLASSIFICATION Sheriff's Air-Rescue 5 makes Emergency REPORTING OFFICER Lt. Wheat
Landing in Long Beach

TIME OF OCCURRENCE / DISCOVERY 12:40 PM UNIT Aero Bureau
LOCATION Pacific Ocean off the City of Long Beach DATE July 22, 2010

THOMAS GUIDE PAGE
AND SECTION

C/P LOC 825, B-6

VICTIM(S) _____ SUSPECT(S) _____

DNR _____ DNR _____

☐ _____ ☐ _____

NOTIFY STATION WATCH COMMANDER PRIOR TO RELEASING CODE 20 SGT. INITIAL _____

WATCH CMDR. NAME Lt. Wheat DATE July 22, 2010 TIME 1530 HOURS

NARRATIVE: A Sheriff's Department Air-5 Rescue Sikorsky helicopter was conducting a maintenance check flight over the Pacific Ocean at about 12:40 PM, when one of the helicopter's two engines failed, and the flight crew immediately headed back to Long Beach Airport. While en route, the pilots detected a sudden loss of a significant amount of engine oil, and prepared for an emergency landing. In order to land safely, it was necessary, under emergency procedures, to off load some fuel to lighten the aircraft over downtown Long Beach from an altitude of about 1000 feet.

The helicopter was able to land safely on the athletic field at Long Beach Polytechnic High School, 1600 Atlantic Avenue, Long Beach. There were no injuries.

The flight path wherein the fuel was released was from (approximately) the old Long Beach Naval Shipyard on a direct flight path to the high school. The path included the naval shipyard, loading docks, some residential areas and downtown Long Beach.

CITY NEWS _____ (485-3535) MEDIA PAGE _____ (800-677-4649)

REVISED: 11-05-07 ☐ COPY TO ☐ SENT TO
LIEUTENANT . WEBMASTER WRITTEN BY: Captain Mike Parker
APPROVED BY: Sgt. Diane Hecht

LOG NO. 179

DATE: 07/22/2010

----- SHERIFF'S HEADQUARTERS BUREAU --- CODE 20

CONTINUATION PAGE 2 OF 2

Battalion Chief Jim Rexwinkel, Long Beach Fire Department, reported they received several calls from the public complaining of an unknown liquid falling from the sky. There were no reports of hospitalizations. Their concerns were alleviated once the source of the substance was explained.